



The Future of Yugoslavia



Introduction

Fellow Delegates,

My name is Elijah Dowdy and I will be your Crisis Director for this committee. I am a fourth-year student majoring in World Politics. I joined the Collegiate Council on World Affairs last year and am highly involved within the United Nations Association branch of CCWA. Last year, I served as a Crisis Staffer for OSUMUN 2018, and I look forward to serving as a Crisis Director for my final OSUMUN.

I have always had an interest in traveling and exploring the globe and when I came to The Ohio State University, I discovered an unexpected part of the world in one of my classes that I fell in love with. That part of the globe is the Balkans. I traveled to Bosnia and Croatia late last year in the fall and my favorite country of all time—besides America—is the beautiful country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. My passion for the Balkans prompted me to create this historical crisis committee focusing on Yugoslavia and its fascinating political climate post-WWII.

I am looking forward to meeting you all this weekend and I hope that everyone will enjoy this committee and the spirited debate that will ensue. If you have any questions, please reach out to me via email at dowdy.52@osu.edu. Enjoy OSUMUN 2019!

Zabavi Se,

Elijah Dowdy

History

Background

There have been three federations in the Balkan region of Europe that bear the name “Yugoslavia” from 1918 to 2003. The first Yugoslavia was created after World War I and the Balkan Wars and lasted until World War II. The second Yugoslavia was created after World War II as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and this republic lasted until 1992 when it collapsed due to civil war. The third and final Yugoslavia was inaugurated on the 27th of April, 1992 with only two of the original members left, Serbia and Montenegro. In 2003 these two countries dropped the name Yugoslavia and agreed to be known as Serbia and Montenegro. In 2006, this union dissolved into two separate and independent countries.

Note: this committee will focus on the second Yugoslavia, or the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia

The Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia was created at the end of World War II, after a resistance group managed to push back the German occupation of the region. The resistance group was known as the Partisans and they were led by Josip Broz Tito. After the Partisans successfully regained control of Yugoslavia, the new country was split into six supposedly equal republics: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Serbia, with the two autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina located within Serbia.

Tito’s Leadership

Josip Broz Tito—former leader of the Partisans—ruled the Socialist Yugoslavia as prime minister and as Chief of Defense from 1945 until his death in 1980. He managed to unify Yugoslavia through his dynamic leadership style and through instituting a more liberal form of communism known as “Titoism”.

Tito also faced a number of challenges in keeping the unification of Yugoslavia peaceful. Tito was trying to hold the federation together by fighting against nationalistic tendencies in the six different republics, particularly against the ethnic

Serbs and Croats. Another challenge that amplified the struggles Tito faced included dealing with a post-war society. One way he managed to keep the republic together was through enacting a more liberal economic policy that allowed citizens to work and travel to Western nations. His open policy contributed to the stability of the nation and forged positive relations with other nations that were politically opposed to one another.

Thanks to Tito's open policy, this allows positive economic benefits for Yugoslavs. However, Croats and Slovenes benefited more from the rising economy due to their proximity to Western Europe. Unsurprisingly due to being the most economically advanced in the country, the republics of Croatia and Slovenia were opposed to having their profits being transferred to the poorer regions in Yugoslavia. This wealth inequity created a rise in nationalistic tendencies from Serbia and Macedonia because they did not benefit as much from the same trade. The nationalists throughout the region who conspired or promoted independence movements were either exiled, forced into labor camps, or put to death.

Tito's authority faced threat in the 1970s as Yugoslavia experienced an economic downturn caused by rising foreign debt, inflation, and ineffective economic policies for those living in poorer regions. Ethnic Croats were still putting pressure on Tito for independence and this caused Tito to tighten the dictatorship. Tito's reign ended in 1980 at his death, which prompted political upheaval within Yugoslavia. With no strong leader like Tito who suppressed political dissidents, nationalism exploded in the Yugoslav Civil War. The ongoing insurgencies throughout this Civil War sparked the breakup of the federation in the 1990s.

Committee Objective

This committee is taking place after Tito's death. With rising nationalism, a bad economy, and a national government on the brink of collapse, many committee members believe unity is needed in order to recover from the problems that Yugoslavia is facing. However, others may think that unity is not the answer and keeping Yugoslavia together is a lost cause. This committee will determine the future of Yugoslavia, and decide whether Yugoslavia will remain a unified republic or if it will fade into history. If the committee chooses to stay united, then each of the republics and the two autonomous regions will have to determine how to address the problems of nationalism, a failing economy, and an inefficient government. If the committee chooses to break apart into separate independent nations, then each of the entities will have to deal with its own set of problems outlined in the descriptions of each entity and determine how to draw new borders. Additionally, all entities will have to fight for recognition within the international community for their new independent nation. Each entity, regardless of the committee's decision to unify or separate, will have four main characters that represent a particular role in each of their respective republics.

Entities and Characters

Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 1946, Bosnia became a Yugoslav Republic and underwent immense changes imposed by the national government. However, the people of Bosnia were mainly affected by the ban on its many Muslim institutions such as Islamic schools and Islamic charities, even though most of the Republic was Muslim. Muslim was not even allowed to be used as a national identity until the 1960s when a policy change went into effect.

- Characters:
 - Nationalist-Alija Izetbegović
 - President of the League of Communists Party of Bosnia- Hamdija Pozderac
 - Head of the Republic- Raif Dizdarević
 - Chairman of the Presidency- Cvijetin Mijatović

Socialist Republic of Croatia

In the early 1960s, the national government instituted a number of economic reforms and attempts at decentralization. This led to a 'Croatian Spring' that saw a revival of Croatian identity, but eventually this turned into a push towards Croatian autonomy in the late 1960s. In an attempt to evade civil war, Tito purged and put restrictions on Croatian politicians and intellectuals who encouraged these nationalist movements. Even though there was a change in the Yugoslav constitution and Croatia gained some autonomy, there were still rising feelings of Croatian nationalism.

- Characters:
 - Nationalist-Franjo Tuđman
 - President of the League of Communists Party of Croatia-Milka Planinc
 - Head of the Republic-Ante Marković
 - Chairman of the Presidency-Mika Špiljak

Socialist Republic of Macedonia

Macedonia remained one of the greatest supporters of Yugoslavia. It even sought to provide solutions to the national government to avoid any Republics from leaving Yugoslavia. Their loyalty was in part due to the protection that Macedonia received from Yugoslavia. Despite this strong loyalty, Macedonia eventually peacefully removed itself from Yugoslavia in 1991 after Macedonian citizens voted for independence. However, problems arose during this movement between the ethnic Albanian minority and the ethnic Macedonian majority when Albanians were denied citizenship and full constitutional rights.

- Characters:
 - Nationalist-Kiro Gligorov
 - President of the League of Communists Party of Macedonia-Angel Čemerski
 - Head of the Republic-Blagoja Popov
 - Chairman of the Presidency-Lazar Koliševsk

Socialist Republic of Montenegro

Montenegro was a loyal member of the Yugoslav regime and because of its loyalty, it managed to receive large amounts of federal aid for much needed development. While the aid for internal development posed great opportunity for Montenegro's success, Montenegro often experienced exclusion from the communication networks within Yugoslavia.

- Characters:
 - Nationalist- Momir Bulatović
 - President of the League of Communists Party of Montenegro- Vojo Srzentić
 - Head of the Republic- Veljko Milatović
 - Chairman of the Presidency- Veselin Đuranović

Socialist Republic of Serbia

Serbia faced economic troubles, even in the midst of Yugoslavia's economic prosperity the 1950s and 60s. In addition to having economic troubles, ethnic conflicts arose within the borders of Serbia between ethnic Serbs and the ethnic Albanian majority region of Kosovo.

- Characters:

- Head of the Republic- Slobodan Milošević
- Chairman of the Presidency- Petar Stambolić

Socialist Republic of Slovenia

Just like Croatia with being one of the wealthiest Republics within Yugoslavia, movements for greater autonomy rose. Unsurprisingly, these were suppressed by the Yugoslav national government. Communities lost their patience with the national government due to the rising inflation and debt of Yugoslavia. Slovenes eventually saw themselves being culturally different from the southern republics and the push for independence remained at an all time high with 90% of Slovenes calling for an independence vote in 1990.

- Characters:
 - Nationalist- France Bučar
 - President of the League of Communists Party of Slovenia- Franc Popit
 - Head of the Republic- Janez Zemljarič
 - Chairman of the Presidency- Sergej Kraigher

Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo

Kosovo is considered to be a historical region of Serbia. In the 1960s, the national government recognized the Albanian ethnicity and allowed Albanians to advance in governmental affairs. This province also became majority Albanian due to ethnic Serbs leaving for Serbia proper. Under the 1974 Yugoslav constitution, it became a Republic in all but name. However, with poor economic conditions, little aid coming to Kosovo, clear ethnic discrimination from Serbia, and autonomy limited by Serbia, Kosovars began to promote civil unrest against Serbia and Yugoslavia.

- Characters:
 - Nationalist- Adem Demaçi
 - President of the League of Communists Party of Kosovo- Mahmut Bakalli
 - Head of the Province- Xhavit Nimani
 - Chairman of the Presidency- Sinan Hasani

Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

With a majority Serbian population within the multi-ethnic province, Vojvodina was a mostly peaceful province. However, Vojvodina began to experience the a push towards violence and the need for independence. Just like with Kosovo, Vojvodina saw limited autonomy within the borders of Serbia. While the 1974 Yugoslav constitution attempted to provide autonomy within the province, their powers were eventually taken away by Serbia.

- Characters:
 - Nationalist- Nenad Čanak
 - President of the League of Communists Party of Vojvodina- Dušan Alimpić
 - Head of the Province- Radovan Vlajković
 - Chairman of the Presidency- Vilmoš Molnar

Character Titles

Chairman of the Presidency

After Tito's death, the presidency of Yugoslavia was transformed into a collective presidency with each Chairman and republic having an equal voice in Yugoslavia's governance. All members of this collective presidency were part of the League of Communist Party and the leader of this collective presidency was on a rotating basis every year.

President of the League of Communist Party

Each entity in Yugoslavia has its own version of the Communist Party. The head of this party was the most influential politician in their respective entity due to having connections to the presidency and due to the ruling that the League of Communist Party was the only political party allowed in Yugoslavia.

Head of the Republic/Province

The Head of the Republic/Province handled the daily affairs of their respective republics. The people in this position are often swayed by public opinion as well as the opinions of the national government and their local Communist Party.

Nationalist

The nationalist was a person who was known to be the most controversial in Yugoslavia. These people were either leaders after Yugoslavia broke up, or they rallied for independence and risked death to fight for independence under the Yugoslav government. These people often had strong arguments for why their respective entity should break from Yugoslavia.

Sources

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